

Hunterdon County Knitting and Crocheting Guild Newsletter



Happy New Year 2016

OUR MEETINGS

All of our meetings from September 2015 through June 2016 will be held at the Raritan Township Municipal Bldg. (Police Station). Our meetings this month are **Friday, January 15th, and Friday, January 22nd**. The hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Reminder: Please do not bring food or drinks (other than water) into the meeting room, and remember to remove any water bottles that you bring in. This request is a condition of our meeting room usage. Thank You

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 53 members listed on our roster, including new and renewed members. By now you should have received the 2015-2016 membership roster by email. Please let myself or Shirley know if you have not.

A Friendly Welcome to newest member Nancy J!

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to you all! Like some of you I have New Year's resolutions. The first is to begin making hand knit gifts for friends and family NOW!!! This past year I did not have enough goodies to go around because I was not focused on gift making, but rather was trying to get my little yarn venture off the ground. Much time was spent making patterns and samples rather than presents.

Good news- I have already completed one Amazing Hat and hope that this hat will be my go to gift for next year. My other resolution is to make an honest effort to diminish my stash to a reasonable level. That shouldn't be too hard to do given our charity knitting and all those pending hats.

All our ewes are back home again without a hitch in their transport. In one 24 hour period last weekend, our sheep population went from 6 to 16. The two new

Shetland-Gotland girls have been given names, Fiona and Ursula, popular Disney princesses according to our granddaughters. They are in the process of being tamed. Now we have to wait and see how many conceived and patiently wait for lambs to arrive in April.

I hope you are all well and happy and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on the 15th.

OUR OFFICERS AND STAFF for 2015-2016

President – Georgia Muhs

Vice President – Barbara Osmolski

Secretary – Jane Manley

Treasurer - Barbara Schibilia

Membership - Shirley Covert

Program Co-Chairs – Trudy Grimm & Doris Gullion

Newsletter/Publicity Chairperson – Mary Shanahan

THIS MONTH'S PROJECTS WILL BE ...

January 15, Knitting and Crocheting for Charity.

Bring in a project you have begun, or bring materials to begin a new charity item for donation to one of our Outreach recipient groups. We have several outreach programs to which we are contributing; Knitters Unite, Hope for Veterans, and Warm Up America. With our weather changing to true winter feeling, this is a great time to make a hat and scarf for someone in need.

On January 22, two activities will occur:

Two members will be demonstrating Smartphone Apps for our craft, *and* Measuring Ourselves for Pattern Success!

Yes, Smartphone apps for knit and crochet, for use on iPhones or iPads and in Droid format, these can be used to track your row count, track your repeat count, and keep track of several WIPs at once. Come get started with us!

Also on Jan. 22, we will practice measuring ourselves/each other for the perfect sizing and personalization of an item we wish to make for ourselves. What a great start to a successful year of personalized projects, *and for ourselves!* Bring a tape measure and a pencil with you; a form will be provided.

RECENT SUCCESSES ... in December, 2015

There was a great turn out of Guild members and the general public for the kickoff gathering of Knitters Unite at the Main Branch of the County Library on Dec. 15. Approximately 40 items were collected that night, many from our Guild,

and account for almost half of their current need! There was a collection of stash yarn and other donated yarns in addition to patterns available for anyone who needed inspiration. Pam MacKenzie was in attendance, a Real Estate reporter and “In Stitches” knitting blogger from the Courier News, also known for her organization of the “Stitch and Pitch” which we attended in August 2015. Pam mentioned she is collecting for Elijah’s Promise, which benefits families in need, not just men. If Veterans Haven North reaches their goal (and since they are men only as of now), she will be happy to continue to collect hand knitted and crocheted donations for that cause.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 15-17, 2016 [Vogue Knitting LIVE!](#) Is just weeks away!!! Purchase your tickets online and make a day of it.

As Spring approaches, I look forward to posting more events in this section ... Please let me know of anything you would like to see included here!

Some examples of upcoming Guild Programs include making our own buttons, a road trip to Lion Brand Yarns, a “What Color Am I?” presentation by a fashion minded Guild member, and another WWKIP Day (Worldwide Knit In Public Day) on June 18 this year!

OUTREACH

As always, if you know of any local non-profit organizations who are struggling and who would benefit from knitted and crocheted items made by our members, please let us know and I will happily include them here.

****NEW* “Knitters Unite” through Hunterdon County Library:***

This is an effort organized between Linda Zdepski of the Main Branch of Hunterdon County Library, and Sabrina Baarda, HC Veteran Services Coordinator, asking volunteers to knit and crochet hats and scarves for Veterans. This outreach will benefit Veterans Haven North, a 100- bed, temporary home and training center for homeless male veterans, located in Lebanon Township. The Vets range from WWII through Afghanistan and Iraq and come from all branches of the armed forces. The Library hopes to have donated items on display by hanging them from a clothes line, in addition to placing them into a large collection box at the library, ending their collection on January 30, 2016. *If you are unable to drop off your donations, please bring any items you have completed to our meetings on Jan. 15 and Jan. 22, and I will bring them to the library.*

“Hope for Veterans” - Items Always Needed: Men and Women Veterans who live in the residence associated with the Lyons Veterans’ Hospital in Liberty Corner,

NJ, are in need of hats, scarves and socks. These are veterans who cannot go out to get their own supplies so we would like to help out by using our talents to make the items they need. A reminder that it is preferred that we do not visit the facility, so a contact from the residence has agreed to pick up whatever we can donate by meeting a Guild member at the library.

PLEASE NOTE: Barbara O or Mary S will collect finished items and arrange delivery to organization representatives.

Warm Up America: An ongoing project, the goal of this nation-wide effort is to provide warm crocheted or knitted afghans to anyone in need. They are distributed by The Red Cross and Salvation Army to victims of natural disasters, area homeless, and to families and individuals who have lost their homes and belongings due to fire, flood or tornadoes. Forty-nine blocks that measure 7" X 9" are joined together to complete an afghan. Use your leftover and stash yarn to make some 7"x 9" knitted and/or crocheted blocks and bring them to a meeting. Myra will continue to collect them throughout the year.

SHOW AND TELL --- Our Members Have Been Busy!

In December we saw some many wonderful items shown off by our members. Barbara (Bob) S. showed a few precious, hand knit baby hats, sweaters, and booties her mother had made for her and for her brother.

Elaine S. brought in a slouch hat, watch cap, and spiral dyed rib cap she had made for donation, a Minion mitten knitted for a relative, and her completed Broomstick Lace scarf.

Bertha G also showed off her almost finished Broomstick Lace Scarf.

Paulette L had a variety of crocheted hats for donation, to add to the Knitters Unite items already brought to the library.

Sandra A brought in some fingerless gloves to show us.

Please visit our website www.hunterdonknitcrochet.com for further updates.

Happy New Year!